



ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS ADVISORY BOARD

COMMUNIQUE – MEETING ON 13 AUGUST 2025

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board (AODAB) was established pursuant to s.14 of the *Alcohol and Other Drugs Act 1974* (the Act) to provide advice to the CEO (the Mental Health Commissioner) about matters relevant to performance of functions under section 11 - the functions of the CEO. In fulfilling this purpose, the AODAB consults with the alcohol and other drug and related sectors to ensure advice to the Mental Health Commissioner (the Commissioner) reflects the broad range of views and experience of people affected by alcohol and other drug related harm, such as communities, young people, the ageing population and those with co-occurring health issues such as mental health conditions.

The AODAB is committed to communicating information about its work where possible, and it was agreed to provide a publicly available communique, in broad terms, about the activities of the AODAB.

This communique provides an overview of key matters discussed at the AODAB meeting on 13 August 2025.

Commissioner attendance

Ms Maureen Lewis, Commissioner, Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs attended the meeting and provided an overview of current Mental Health Commission (Commission) activities, including interagency collaboration on emerging opportunities to address alcohol and other drug related issues. The Commissioner reaffirmed the priority of alcohol and other drugs for the Commission, reflected through the establishment of the Office of Alcohol and Other Drugs (the Office). The alcohol and other drugs related election commitments also indicate this is a priority for Government.

Liquor Licensing Legislation

The AODAB discussed the Tranche 2 reform Discussion Paper for the *Liquor Control Act 1988* and its approach for formulating its associated advice to the Commission. The discussions focused on the importance of harm minimisation in liquor licensing legislation.

Harm Reduction

The Office requested AODAB advice on harm reduction and its scope and definition, noting the need to strengthen approaches to harm reduction was a key theme in the consultation undertaken to support the development of the Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-2030. This advice will assist in shaping the early engagement for the development of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Framework.

The next AODAB meeting is scheduled for 12 November 2025.